



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EST (NOAA)

### **Agricultural Weather Highlights - Thursday - January 16, 2003**

- ***In the West***, mild, dry weather continues. Soil moisture remains adequate in ***northern California*** and parts of the ***Pacific Northwest***, but drought effects elsewhere from the ***Rockies westward*** include stressed rangelands, meager mountain snow packs, and low reservoir levels.
- ***On the Plains***, winter wheat areas from ***Montana to eastern Kansas*** are benefiting from yesterday's snowfall, which totaled as much as 6 inches in a few locations. However, winter wheat remains exposed to potential weather extremes on the drought-affected ***central High Plains***.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, widespread, generally light snowfall is causing minor travel disruptions but boosting topsoil moisture reserves.
- ***In the South***, cool weather continues to slow evaporation rates from still-soggy fields. Some snow is falling in the ***Tennessee Valley***, while rain showers are developing in the ***central Gulf Coast States***.

**Outlook:** A winter storm emerging from the ***Plains*** will move quickly across the ***Tennessee Valley*** today and off the ***East Coast*** on Friday. A swath of significant snowfall is likely along the storm's track across the ***Tennessee Valley, southern Appalachians, and southern Mid-Atlantic States***. In the storm's wake, a strong high-pressure system may bring a freeze to areas as far south as ***Deep South Texas*** (on Friday morning) and the ***central Gulf Coast*** (on Saturday morning). In contrast, dry, unseasonably warm weather will continue across the ***West***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for January 21-25 calls for drier-than-normal weather in ***California*** and ***Nevada*** and from the ***Midwest into the Northeast***. Meanwhile, above-normal precipitation is forecast on the ***Plains***. Below-normal temperatures will occur in the ***Pacific Northwest*** and throughout ***eastern two-thirds of the U.S.***, while above-normal temperatures will be confined to ***California*** and the ***Southwest***.

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